

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 11 (currently amended): A diagnostic kit for detecting pulmonary and extra pulmonary tuberculosis, comprising a test card "TB-Screen" coated with a hydrophobic material, mixing sticks comprising a glycolipid from a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H₃₇RV an antigen suspension intercalated or coupled with a liposome surface, a positive control comprising an anti-mycobacterial glycolipid antibody from *Mycobacterial tuberculosis*, and a negative control comprising serum antibodies from a subject not previously exposed to *Mycobacterial tuberculosis*.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The kit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said antigen suspension is a liposome antigen and said test card is a plastic slide.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The kit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said negative control is prepared from the blood of a normal young rabbit.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The kit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said positive control is prepared from a 4 to 6 month old rabbit which is immunized with mycobacterium antigens and bled periodically.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method for testing individuals for ~~of detecting tuberculosis using a kit comprising the steps of~~ applying a positive control, a negative control and a test sample to, ~~each in circular motion on a test card coated with a hydrophobic material, wherein said positive control is an anti-mycobacterial glycolipid antibody from *Mycobacterial tuberculosis*, and wherein said negative control are serum antibodies from a subject not previously exposed to *Mycobacterial tuberculosis*; adding an antigen suspension to said each of the positive, said negative and test said sample; and interpreting a result to interpret the results, wherein clumping of a specific antigen in the suspension and an antibody is observed as dark blue agglutination in the positive control and the test sample is prognostic for which contains the an active tuberculosis infection.~~

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said antigen suspension is a liposome antigen.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein ~~said the lipid antigen for positive control~~ is prepared comprising the steps of:

growing ~~Mycobacterium tuberculosis~~ Mycobacterium tuberculosis H₃₇Rv (ATCC-27294) strain on Sautons media;

harvesting cells in the media by centrifugation at 4° to 10°C;

subjecting said cells to the step of sonication;

extracting the antigens from said cells;

adding chloroform and methanol mixture (2:1) to said antigens with stirring at room temperature; and

subjecting the mixture to the step of filtration, thereby forming a suspension;

separating wherein the said suspension thus obtained is transferred into a separating funnel and kept overnight until two distinct layers are separated, an upper aqueous phase and is removed and the a lower organic phase;

removing said upper aqueous phase; retained after filtration;

drying said organic phase, being dried by evaporating the thereby forming a solvent containing to obtain the a lipid; and

purifying subjecting said lipid to the further step of purification.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said antigen suspension is prepared comprising the steps of:

adding a phosphatidylcholine, a cholesterol, a lipid antigens antigen and a dye in a flask, thereby forming a solvent layer; and

evaporating the said solvent layer, thereby forming dried contents in a vacuum evaporator;

dissolving the said dried contents thus obtained in absolute alcohol at 4° to 10°C for 1 to 2 hours to produce the said antigen suspension;

adding said antigen suspension to a sucrose solution; ~~with continuous stirring and keeping said suspension~~
maintaining a temperature of at -2° to 8°C overnight;
subjecting said suspension to centrifugation, thereby forming a supernatant and a pellet; and
discarding the said supernatant; and
suspending the said pellet ~~obtained into in~~ a buffer and stirring the same at 4° to 10°C.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said lipid antigen is further purified using column chromatography.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said buffer comprises NaH₂PO₄·2H₂O, KH₂PO₄, EDTA, Choline Chloride and Thiomersol.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said dye is Sudan Black ~~black B~~ or Sudan red in chloroform.

Claim 22 (new): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said anti-mycobacterial glycolipid antibody is isolated from a rabbit immunized against a purified glycolipid antigen from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv.

Claim 23 (new): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said antibodies from a subject not previously exposed to *Mycobacterial tuberculosis* are isolated from a rabbit that has not been exposed to *Mycobacterial tuberculosis*.

Claim 24 (new): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said anti-mycobacterial glycolipid antibody is coupled onto a surface of a liposome.

Application No. 10/590,118
Paper Dated: June 16, 2008
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of January 14, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 4544-062454

Claim 25 (new): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said rabbit was immunized against a heat inactivated sonicated *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv strain.